



Call for Scientific Sessions and Workshop Proposals

Proposal Deadline: Sept. 23, 2016

The Scientific Program Committee plans to convene special sessions and workshops that promote intellectually stimulating discussions on **Coastal Science at the Inflection Point: Celebrating Successes and Learning from Challenges**, and encourage proposals on the following special session topics:

1. Successes in estuarine management and restoration

Global efforts to restore and protect estuaries have been ongoing for decades and are beginning to show demonstrated successes including improving environmental quality, developing frameworks to assess the status and trajectory of estuarine function, and creating sustainable practices for human use of estuaries. Sessions documenting successes in specific locations worldwide, overviews of successful management approaches, opportunities for near term future success, and modeling to quantify and guide management and restoration activities are encouraged.

2. Urbanization in coastal and estuarine ecosystems

With 50% of the world's population projected to live on the coast by 2050, urbanization of coastal and estuarine ecosystems is occurring globally. Urbanization alters natural ecosystems in a variety of pathways, which in turn leave them more vulnerable to climate hazards. Here we invite sessions that examine how worldwide urbanization fundamentally alters coastal and estuarine ecosystems as well as sessions that examine methods to reduce these impacts and ultimately the vulnerability of urban ecosystems.

3. Understanding the context and impacts of aquaculture on estuarine ecosystem function

Seafood is increasingly counted on to provide protein for the planet's growing population. Wild fisheries cannot support this growing demand, thus aquaculture is becoming more prominent, with most of the world's aquaculture production currently concentrated in China. While key to sustaining humans, aquaculture's impact on estuaries can range from negative to positive. We invite sessions to examine advances in aquaculture that enhance compatibility with ecosystem function, modeling to predict carrying capacities, and science to enhance the understanding of the ecological and biogeochemical impacts of aquaculture in estuaries.

4. Insights from coupled natural-human systems research in estuaries

Recent estuarine research has emphasized the value of understanding the influence of coupled natural-human systems, integrating the insights from fields such as economics, anthropology, sociology, ecology, geology and chemistry. Multi-disciplinary sessions focused on coupled natural-human interactions on topics in estuaries, such as water quality, fisheries, shoreline management and recreation, are encouraged.

5. Science to support Ecosystem Based Management in estuaries and coasts

Assessing ecosystems as a whole unit versus managing for a few parameters (e.g. oxygen, bacteria) captures the variability of biogeochemical processes and anthropogenic influences among systems and allows management practices to vary accordingly. While theoretically sound, developing an ecosystem based management plan can be complex. Sessions focused on the scientific assessment of ecosystem based management, articulation of the process and application, and stories of success and lessons learned are encouraged.

6. Estuarine and coastal habitats and landscapes – from community structure, dynamics and resilience to ecosystem function

Estuaries and coastal habitats are highly productive areas in terms of both ecologic and economic services. Preserving these services is a constant challenge in the face of pressures from climate change, urbanization and rising populations, and industrialization in the developing world. Multi-disciplinary or subject specific sessions are invited to explore the many levels of this topic. Sessions with broad geographic coverage to permit inter-comparisons are especially encouraged.

7. Sustaining estuarine and coastal fisheries

Estuarine and coastal ecosystems are highly productive and support a wide diversity of economically important fisheries species. While many of these fisheries have collapsed, or are currently considered overfished, sustainable fisheries can be found in several regions of the world. Sessions providing insights on factors that lead to the collapse of fisheries are encouraged, as are those that explore how to sustain and rebuild estuarine coastal fisheries.

8. Stormwater and agricultural BMPs – assessing their function and understanding their context in watersheds

Nutrients, sediment, and contaminants delivered to coastal waters from human land use practices impacts the trophic status and water quality of receiving coastal and estuarine waters. Effects of these inputs are compounded by the impact of climate change, often acting in synergistic ways which result in greater degradation relative to what was predicted based on the inputs alone. As we reach the limit of technology for point sources, reducing inputs from non point sources is a critical next step. Agricultural lands and stormwater runoff from urbanized and rural areas often require site specific designs to reduce their impact on receiving waters. We welcome sessions focused on understanding the role, function, technological advances, and future outlook of best management practices for agricultural lands and stormwater in estuaries worldwide.

9. Ecological theory to advance estuarine management

Applied challenges, from local to global, can benefit from integrating ecological theory into efforts to manage estuarine and coastal ecosystems. For instance, understanding of the ecological processes that influence the structure and stability of estuarine and coastal ecosystems could be used to sustain their delivery of ecosystem services. Sessions that explore how to use ecological theory to enhance management efforts and build towards more resilient estuarine and coastal ecosystems are encouraged.

10. Innovations in engineering in and around estuaries

Conventional and, more recently, green engineering activities have been relied upon to help maintain and enhance estuarine function. Sessions may focus on novel engineering (both conventional and green) advances, comparisons between green engineering and the conventional analogue (e.g. shoreline stabilization, wastewater treatment), rigorous assessments of function, economic assessments of engineering solutions, and novel applications for newly industrialized and developing countries and underserved regions.

Contacts

Please contact the Scientific Program Committee Co-Chairs, Jamie Vaudrey, Jon Grabowski and Mike Piehler at spcchairs@erf.org, to discuss ideas for sessions or workshops.

Submission information

Proposed special sessions may have an oral, poster, or combined oral/poster format. For a proposed session, please be prepared to act as the convener and/or identify others who will help develop and chair this session. The Scientific Program Committee will work with you to develop diverse participation and options for an integrated synthesis component for each scientific session. All proposals must be submitted online. Once in the system, you will find further instructions for submitting a session or workshop proposal.

Information needed to submit a proposal:

Determine if you are submitting a workshop proposal or a session proposal. Please follow the appropriate link for your submission.

Identify any of the special session topics (noted above) that are closely related to your submission.

Title (10 words or fewer): If your title is greater than 10 words, we reserve the right to shorten it for publication.

For session proposals only: Identify one of three choices: Is this proposal for an oral session, a poster session or a combined oral/poster session? *Note that the Program Committee will do its best to give you your choice but cannot guarantee it.*

For session proposals only: Please indicate if you are willing to consider structuring all or part of your session using the Ignite/Lightning talk format. Lightning talks are typically 5 minutes with a flexible slide format. Ignite talks are similar, but are limited to 20 slides that automatically advance after 15 seconds.

Session Descriptions: Submit a short and long description of the session or workshop theme. Please restrict the body of your long description to one page (500 words). This may be used for publication and to help judge your proposal. You must also provide a short description of 50 to 100 words for inclusion on the website, in our newsletters, the Call for Abstracts, and the program book. No tables or graphics, please.

Optional: Provide a list of potential participants. Note that each session may include both invited (by you) speakers and contributed (from the abstract submittal process) speakers. Specific invited speaker policies are still in formation. *Please note: Conference registration and abstract fees are not waived for session/workshop speakers and conveners.*

Lead Convener: Provide lead convener's name with full contact information.

Other Convener Names: Provide names and email addresses (limit to three other conveners).

Keywords: Provide up to 5 keywords relating to your topic for search purposes.